

**St Nicolas** (1246-1306) is an Italian Augustinian friar who practiced severe mortifications to get healings. St Nicolas' bread, a roll of dough with a cross in the center, has its origin in the bread he used to give to the sick to eat after he had prayed for the Virgin Mary's healing intercession.



**First Reading:** (1 Tim 1:1-2, 12-14) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful by appointing me to his service, though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted him; but I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11**

**R./ O Lord, it is you who are my portion.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 6:39-42) Jesus told his disciples a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but every one when he is fully taught will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

### REFLECTION

Anyone who has influence over or responsibility for anyone else, like leaders, teachers and parents can some time turn into 'blind persons'. Any person can become blind and lead someone else down the same path of blindness. Jesus also tells that the blind are those who follow: the pupil, the listener and anyone who looks up to someone else for guidance. Jesus warns against being blind. He said blindness leads to tragic results. Both walk in darkness, both the leader and the follower. Being a leader does not guarantee that one walks in the light. The leader must see so that those who follow him reach the right destination. **Leader and follower alike are to watch the life of the Teacher, who is Lord Jesus Christ himself.**